

Living as God's People

LESSON 6: LIVING AS GOD'S PEOPLE BY THE 3 P'S (PEACE, PURITY AND PROSPERITY)

BIG IDEA: Living as God's people means being committed to one another.

6. Do you promise to support the church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?

RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERSHIP

Church members are required to make diligent use of the means of grace, to share faithfully in the worship and service of the Church, to give of their substance as the Lord may prosper them, to render wholehearted service to Christ and His kingdom throughout the world, to continue in the peace and fellowship of the people of God, and to so live as to bear faithful witness to the Gospel." ARP FOG, V, B

I. PEACE: The responsibility to resolve all conflict of which you are a part.

Joe ← conflict → Paul
Sue

16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. 17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ROMANS 12

- God's people are to live at _____ with one another.
• _____ means acting like your needs, ideas and wants are more _____ than other people's.
• _____ means you take other people's needs, ideas and wants _____.
• Each person plays a _____ in living in peace. You're _____ for your part!

Explode- Do more harm

Anger => =>

Implode- withdraw

15 "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church.

MATTHEW 18

- Sin produces _____ in the church. It doesn't go away by itself.
• Remember, hurt _____ ≠ _____.
• Don't talk about that sin with _____, but go _____ to the other person.
• If they don't agree, bring _____. They can help you sort it out _____.
• If there is sin, and the person still _____ to admit it, bring it to the _____.

Joe <= conflict => Jack
Sue & Tim

Living as God's People

(sin or hurt feelings?)

³¹Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³²Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. **EPHESIANS 4**

- Sometimes _____ are the one who _____ the problem.
- We are each to resist the _____ to act sinfully, _____ others.
- We are to act in a way that builds _____; kindness and _____.
- We are to _____ those who sin against us because _____ forgave us.

LIVING AS GOD'S PEOPLE MEANS LIVING AT _____ WITH ONE ANOTHER

II. PURITY: *The responsibility to protect the _____ and _____ of yourself and others.*

¹⁶Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers. **1 TIMOTHY 4**

- What we believe and how we live are _____.
- A problem in _____ results a problem in the _____ too.
- Some people change their _____ to continue _____ behavior.
- Some people _____ wrongly because they _____ the truth.
- Sinful actions and false doctrine can _____ the local church by leading others astray.

²⁴And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, ²⁵correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will. **2 TIMOTHY 2**

- False doctrine must be _____, because it is a _____.
- Our first goal is to see God _____ their hearts, so they'll _____ the truth.
- There is hope- God can change their heart!
- Those who _____ to believe the truth (on important issues) will be asked to _____.

Jack

God

Tim (Open Theist)

Responsibilities

And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. **MATTHEW 18**

- Those who refuse to change are to be _____ of the church before they _____ it.

¹²For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? ¹³God judges those outside. "Purge the evil person from among you."**1 CORINTHIANS 5**

Living as God's People

- We are not to judge _____ for their sin.
- We are not to _____ gross evil within the _____.
- We are to _____ those who _____ to change.
- _____ will then judge them as He sees fit.

LIVING AS GOD'S PEOPLE MEANS _____ AND _____ THE TRUTH

“Mercifully to correct what they can; patiently to bear and lovingly bewail and mourn what they cannot; until God either amends or corrects or in the harvest uproots the tares and winnows the chaff.”

AUGUSTINE

III. PROSPERITY: *The responsibility to support the _____ and _____ of the Church.*

⁸Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions. ⁹You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. ¹⁰Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. **MALACHI 3**

- God commands us to bring the whole tithe (_____) to the _____.
- Keeping it is to _____ God.
- Giving it elsewhere robs the church of the _____ God wants them to have for ministry.
- We can give our _____ to other ministries.

⁷But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also. **2 CORINTHIANS 8**

- Though a _____, Paul expected them to _____ in giving.
- Giving _____ God's grace to others in _____.

“Very few Christians would argue with the principle that God owns it all, and yet if we follow that principle to its natural conclusion, there are three revolutionary implications. First of all, God has the right to whatever He wants whenever He wants it. It is all His, because an owner has rights, and I, as a steward, have only *responsibilities*. . . .

“If I really believe that God owns it all then when I lose any possession, for whatever reason, my emotions may cry out, but my mind and spirit have not the slightest question as to the right of God to take whatever He wants whenever He wants it. Really believing this also frees me to give generously of God's resources to God's purposes and His people. All that I have belongs to Him.

“The second implication of God's owning it all is that not only is my giving decision a spiritual decision, but every spending decision is a spiritual decision. . . . As a steward, I have a great deal of latitude, but I am still responsible to the Owner. Some day I will give an accounting of how I used His property.

“The third implication of the truth that God owns it all is that you can't fake stewardship. Your checkbook reveals all that you really believe about stewardship . . . your goals, priorities, convictions, relationships, and even the use of your time. A person who has been a Christian for even a short while can fake prayer, Bible study, evangelism, going to church, and so on, but he can't fake what his checkbook reveals.”

Living as God's People

Once we come to terms with that basic principle-God owns it all-we will be open to handling our finances God's way. This isn't easy for us today, nor was it easy for the Corinthians.²

¹⁷Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. ¹⁸For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages." **1 TIMOTHY 5**

- Christians should _____ those who give their _____ for the Gospel.
- God provides for their _____ needs through you, just as He provides for your _____ needs through them.

¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." **MATTHEW 28**

- God is also concerned for the _____ and _____ growth of the church.
- Jesus sends us to help the church grow numerically through _____.
- Jesus sends us to help the church grow spiritually through _____.
- We disciple others by teaching to _____ Jesus commands us to do.

LIVING AS GOD'S PEOPLE MEANS _____ RESOURCES TO HELP THE CHURCH GROW EVERYWAY

How Do Churches Grow?

"Our goal is nothing less than the spreading of the kingdom, which requires that all of the ministries of the church be operating at full throttle and interdependently."
TIMOTHY KELLER

SIDE DOOR MINISTRIES

What? Mercy ministries, neighborhood Bible studies, lifestyle evangelism, literacy programs, counseling etc. These address "felt needs".

Who is reached? Often the unchurched. Growth is slow.

Emphasis is on **lay ministry**.

FRONT DOOR MINISTRIES

What? Worship, Preaching, Sunday School

Who is Reached? The church, looking for a new church (transplants, discontented).

Emphasis is on the **pastor** (and worship team). If he is dynamic, and the church visible, the church can grow quickly.

² Ron Blue, *Master Your Money* (Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1986), pp. 19-20. as quoted in, *A Minister, Anyone Could Trust*, Study Guide for 2 Cor. 8-13, Charles Swindoll

Living as God's People

“Most pastors do not have personal dynamism necessary for a front-door church. Multiple entry churches put more responsibility on the laypeople to minister; they tend to be less culture-blind than front-door churches.”

TIM KELLER³

CLOSING THE BACK DOOR

1. Relationships- “Do I feel _____?”
2. Nurture- “Am I _____ in my _____?”
3. Significance- “Is there a _____ for me to _____?”

GENERATIONAL SIN-

LIVING AS GOD'S PEOPLE MEANS ALL OF US HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY

THE ENGINE OF GROWTH- THE GOSPEL!⁴

God's Work For Us (Gospel _____) => God's Work in Us (Gospel _____)
=> God's Work Thru Us (Gospel _____)

Proclamation:

Transformation:

Mission:

PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS:

- Living as God's people means _____ with those who sin against you.
- Living as God's people means talking with those _____ sin against.
- Living as God's people means forgiving those who _____ their sins.
- Living as God's people means being committed to _____ your beliefs and actions by the Bible.
- Living as God's people means _____ to the church to support its ministries.
- Living as God's people means giving your _____ and energy to share _____ with unbelievers.
- Living as God's people means giving your time and energy to help others _____ Jesus.

Conclusion:

³ Keller, Timothy J. *Ministries of Mercy: The Call of Jericho Road*. Philippsburg, P&R Publishing. 1997. pp. 218.

⁴ Taken largely from Lovelace, Richard. *Dynamics of Spiritual Life: An Evangelical Theology of Renewal*. IVP, Downers' Grove. 1979.

Living as God's People